

STATE OF NEW JERSEY)
) :SS:
 COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX)

NELLIE LO RUSSELL being duly sworn, according to law, upon her oath, deposes and says that -

I am forty-two years of age, and reside in the Township of Franklin, Somerset County, where I have lived for the past six years. During the Hall-Mills investigation of 1922, I was one of the witnesses who appeared before the Grand Jury. Prior to that time, it was generally known that I was one of the witnesses, who could testify to the fact that Jane Gibson was at my house and in my company from about 9:40 to 10:45 P. M. on the night of the fourteenth day of September, 1922. During part of which time she has stated she was at the Phillips farm and a witness to the murder of the Reverend Edward Wheeler Hall and Mrs. Eleanor Mills.

In 1926 at the time the Hall-Mills investigation was renewed by the authorities, a State Trooper, who I have since learned is Trooper Mc Manus, called at my house and informed me that I was wanted at State Trooper's Headquarters at Somerville to be questioned by Captain Lamb in connection with the Hall-Mills case. He took me to Somerville in his automobile and while on the road stated as follows: "Now I advise you if you don't know much about this thing, don't say anything because if you hold out there is going to be devil to pay." He then arrived at State Trooper's Headquarters at Somerville, and I was questioned about my statements with reference to seeing Jane Gibson on the night of September 14th, 1922 at the time she appeared at my home to speak to me with reference to my dog, which she had found in the possession of a Hungarian, and which she had taken from the said Hungarian and was holding for me at her farm. Several other questions were asked me. I was then told that as it was late, I would not be questioned further, but that they would be down to fetch me the next night.

The next time they came, there were four persons who stated that they were from the Prosecution staff. Trooper Mc Manus and Detective Hanlon were two of the four persons, who questioned me in the yard of my home on the second visit, which was about five or six days prior to August 12th, 1926. On this occasion, they charged me with having received money as an inducement for stating what I have always stated regarding my having seen Jane Gibson on the night of the fourteenth day of September, 1922. The statements addressed to me by these men were as follows: "We have proof that you have been getting money, - that you are well fixed and that Mrs. Hall fixed you, and that you don't have to worry any more as long as the Halls live" I denied these charges and told them that I had made the statements on my own volition without any prompting or inducement from any person. They continued to say that I was well fixed and had received money, and that they could prove it. They also called me a liar when I denied such charges. They questioned me at least three-quarters of an hour and left stating before they left that they would "lock me up later." The third time that I was taken to State Trooper's Headquarters at Somerville was the night of August 11th, when on my return home from New York I found

Trooper Mc Manus had been looking for me, but later came in and told me that I was wanted at Somerville. This was about 8:30 P. M. I was not given an opportunity to take any things with me. When we arrived at Somerville, I was taken to State Trooper's Headquarters and shown a room by a Trooper, who said "there is your room". My husband, who was with me, protested and said that we did not understand that I would be kept over night. To this Trooper Mc Manus replied, "Well there is your room. Senator Simpson is not here and we don't know whether he will be in tonight, or in later tonight, or tomorrow morning, but he wants to question you." My husband then asked Trooper Mc Manus whether I was under arrest. He stated "well we want to detain her. She isn't really under arrest. There is a warrant out for her arrest but we are not going to serve it."

I remained at the State Trooper's Headquarters on the night of August 11th, 1926, and in the morning I was questioned by three men, two of whom were Senator Simpson and Inspector Underwood. Senator Simpson asked me a few questions and during the time that I was questioned by Inspector Underwood and other persons present, he was in and out of the room practically all of the time. On this occasion I was asked who told me to write the letter to Mrs. Hall and what lawyer was it that instructed me to write such letter. The letter referred to being the one I sent to Mrs. Hall to the effect that Jane Gibson is not telling the truth as to her movements on the night of September 14th, 1922, and that she was in my company at the times about mentioned on that particular night. After they had finished questioning me, Senator Simpson came in and said "give her some lunch and hold her." Later in the morning I was taken over to the Court room where the hearing in connection with the holding of William Stevens and Henry Carpender was being held before Judge Cleary. I was taken over there and was accompanied by two detectives from the Prosecutor's staff. After the hearing for the day had terminated, I was taken back by these two detectives to the State Trooper's Headquarters and interviewed by Inspector Underwood. My husband was present at the time. Inspector Underwood talked with me regarding the statements made by me in my affidavit four years ago. During the questioning he stated as follows: "Do you know Mrs. Russell that you are looked upon by the people in this country as a tool of the Halls? You couldn't make any intelligent person believe that you hadn't been paid. Why can't it be the thirteenth of September, 1922 instead of the 14th? The time of night could be changed easily. If you want to change your story at all, you will not be charged with perjury. Go home and think it over and see if you can't make it another date. If you can't make it a different date, it is easy enough to make it a different hour."

I insisted throughout to Inspector Underwood that I could not be forced to tell anything but the truth, and that it was the night of the fourteenth of September, 1922, that I actually saw Jane Gibson.

The next week I was called to Somerville by a member of the Prosecutor's staff, and taken to the Prosecutor's office in the Court House where I was handed what I was told was a statement of the questions put to me at a previous time, and my answers. I noted in reading my statement, which I later signed, that they had inserted September 13th, 1922 instead of September 14th, 1922, as the date when I saw Jane Gibson. I called this to the attention of the person in charge and insisted that a change be made.

I also noted that there were other statement, which did not represent my answers to the questions put to me at the State Trooper's Headquarters. These also I insisted be changed.

SWORN AND SUBSCRIBED TO BEFORE ME
THIS 21st DAY OF SEPT. A.D. 1926.

NELLIE LO RUSSELL

Margaret A. Harkins
Notary Public for N.J.